

HONORING BRAD AND CAROL
WHITMORE AS IOWANS OF THE
WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brad and Carol Whitmore, two remarkable veterans, as Iowans of the Week. Over the Fourth of July weekend, I couldn't think of better honorees than two individuals who not only served our country for many years but have since continued their service to the country by doing incredible work to support and advocate for fellow veterans.

Carol Whitmore served in the U.S. Army, and has been honored with over 20 medals, ribbons, and badges from her 36 years of service. Following her service, Carol earned a Gold Legacy Life membership with the VFW Post 9127 in Des Moines. She has served in many leadership roles, ranging from the Post, District, and Department levels to the National stage. Carol is a member of the Governor's Veterans Council and sits on the National Council as a representative for the Iowa VFW. As a legislative advocate on both local and national levels, she continues to fight for veteran's rights.

Carol is particularly passionate about women's issues and helping homeless veterans at the Des Moines Homeless Shelter. When asked what she is especially proud of, Carol mentioned becoming a State Commander for the VFW and working with homeless veterans in the state.

Brad Whitmore, a native of Des Moines, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1970 and volunteered to go to Vietnam a year later. He then served one tour and volunteered again for a second tour, then received an Honorable Discharge from the Army in 1976. Brad reenlisted in the Army Reserve in 1988 and found employment in the civilian world as a surgical tech, later earning an associate degree from Des Moines Area Community College for Nursing in 1994. The same year, Brad changed his civilian job to become a surgical nurse and was promoted to Second Lieutenant in the Army. In 1999, he and Carol married, and Brad retired in 2005 after 26 years of service.

After his retirement, Brad was elected Quarter Master of his VFW post in Beaverdale in 2012 and was elected four years later as Quarter Master of Iowa's 5th District. Brad became Chairman of Iowa's National Legislative Committee, and he continues to do legislative work raising awareness about veteran's issues on the national level. His current project is working on the Richard Starr Act, which aims to protect medically discharged veterans. Brad said he is most proud of supporting his wife and admires all that she does to improve the lives of veterans.

I want to thank the Whitmores not only for the years they served in the Army, but for all the work they continue to do, and for the time they have dedicated to helping veterans. I am inspired by Brad and Carol's stories, and I am committed to supporting our nation's veterans, just as they both are. It is my pleasure to recognize Brad and Carol Whitmore as Iowans of the Week.

OCCASION OF CENTENNIAL OF THE
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, last Friday, my colleague, Congressman KAIALI'I KAHELE (Hawaii—Second), and I gathered here on Capitol Hill with leaders of our Native Hawaiian community and partners in the advancement of Native Hawaiians everywhere to recognize the centennial of the enactment, on July 9, 1921, of a truly revolutionary law, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, to honor the times and memory of its author, Hawaii Delegate to Congress Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole, and to reflect on and commit to the path still ahead.

That afternoon, we came together on the East grounds of the Capitol, directly outside the House chamber where Kūhiō served for almost two decades, to share our mana'o (thoughts) on this momentous day. I would like to share here my own remarks on behalf of all throughout our Hawaii who I am privileged to represent:

To my colleague and friend, Congressman Kahele, our incredible guests that are here with us today, and our friends and ʻohana watching everywhere, Aloha.

As I stand with you today, I have so many conflicting thoughts and emotions.

We are here on hallowed grounds that for centuries now have stood for the very best of humanity, and yet we are also on ground that at a bare minimum tolerated the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

We are on grounds that have advanced equality, opportunity, compassion and justice, and yet have sanctioned so much trial and tragedy for our indigenous peoples.

We are on grounds where just one year ago, we gathered to bid aloha to one of the great icons of the civil rights movement, my colleague John Lewis, and yet it is this very ground from which was launched an attack on our Capitol and democracy by our own fellow citizens.

This land is riddled with contradictions. As it was when Prince Kūhiō came to Congress as the first Native Hawaiian to serve almost 120 years ago.

Kūhiō spoke then of the urgency and despair of a people facing extinction in their own land. That was no idle concern. It had in fact happened to other indigenous peoples throughout our country and world; their peoples and cultures are simply no more.

There were then just perhaps 40,000 Native Hawaiians. The life expectancy of Native Hawaiians was but thirty years. They were increasingly not living on the land as had dozens of generations before them, but in the tenements of Honolulu in dire circumstances.

And yet, Kūhiō entrusted his people to this still-new country, a country of promise but that had not shown it was deserving of that trust. And he devoted his next two decades toward advancing his people and to prove that his trust had not been misplaced.

As Congressman Kahele has said, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, signed one hundred years ago today, was his singular accomplishment. But what was Prince Kūhiō's legacy? What did it all add up to?

History is fickle. We're all judged by our successes and failures, our achievements and our shortcomings (of course always in hindsight and without the context of the times).

But I would make these three observations about Kūhiō, looking back from the distance of history and as someone who is not Native Hawaiian.

First, he was exactly the right person for his time and place. Not just for Native Hawaiians, but for all of us whose ancestors and lifeblood lay then and now in Hawaii.

Second, the Kanaka Maoli did not, unlike many of their brothers and sisters, fade from this Earth. Native Hawaiians now number in the hundreds of thousands throughout our country and world, proudly reclaiming and perpetuating their history and culture and contributing alongside all others who seek a better path forward.

Third, Kūhiō, as the first Native Hawaiian leader to step forward onto the national stage, exemplified what proud, principled and capable Hawaiian leadership is, setting the standard for so many of us who followed down the road he paved.

But history is never complete, and the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act is a perfect example. As one Kanaka Maoli leader noted recently, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was beautifully conceived but did not deliver in its implementation. In that the Act is its own story, and now we must turn the page toward better chapters.

Today, I follow and support Congressman Kahele in finding and forging that next chapter. For yesterday's achievements are just tomorrow's foundations, and yesterday's failures are just tomorrow's opportunities.

I am so deeply humbled with the responsibility—for all of us wherever we are for whom Hawaii is and always will be our true home—to partner with you in these next chapters of renewed opportunity and hope. Thank you. Mahalo.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT La
DAVID T. JOHNSON ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS INDUCTION AS
AN HONORARY GREEN BERET

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant La David T. Johnson on the occasion of his induction as an honorary member of the United States Army Special Forces, or "Green Berets."

SGT Johnson is an American hero who laid down his life in the line of duty and to save the lives of his teammates on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 in southwest Niger. Assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, he personified the values of honor, integrity, personal courage, and selfless service.

SGT Johnson enlisted in the United States Army in January 2014 and after completing Advanced Individual Training and earning the Military Occupational Specialty 91B Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic, he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group. SGT Johnson served our nation with distinction and valor, and his decorations include the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Medal.

A role model among his peers in the 3rd Special Forces Group, SGT Johnson represents the best our nation has to offer. His work helped secure and protect our homeland for generations to come and today we honor his sacrifice. While our country can never